

REMARKS

Claims 1-14 are pending in this application. By this Amendment, claims 1 and 8 are amended for clarification of the claim language. Reconsideration is respectfully requested.

I. Claims Define Patentable Subject Matter

The Office Action rejects claims 1-14 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) over Egendorf (U.S. Patent Publication No. 2003/0177111 A1). The rejections are respectfully traversed.

In particular, Egendorf does not disclose or suggest identifiers of document sets, wherein the linkage information and the document information are linked to each other by the identifiers of the document sets, as recited in independent claim 1, and similarly recited in independent claims 8 and 13.

Egendorf discloses at paragraph [0058] that a search database contains relationships between categories and information sources. The Office Action at page 2 asserts that this feature discloses a mechanism that manages linkage information among documents in plural databases. Based on the above assertion, Applicants presume that Egendorf's categories is being associated with the claimed linkage information. Applicants respectfully disagree that Egendorf's information sources correspond to the claimed documents in plural databases. Rather, Egendorf's information sources refer to the plural databases. As such, as will be discussed in detail below, Egendorf does not disclose or suggest the linkage information and the document information are linked to each other by the identifiers of the document sets.

The Office Action at page 3 relies on claim 11 of Egendorf to assert that Egendorf discloses the feature "the linkage information and the document information are linked to each other by the identifiers of the document sets." Applicants respectfully disagrees.

Claim 11 of Egendorf recites that "each packet is associated with one of a plurality of information sources published on a computer information network and includes an identification of the information source and a content description thereof...." Specifically, the

packet includes an identification of the information source (i.e., identification of the database), but does not include the identifiers of document sets having one or more documents stored in the plural databases. For Egendorf to disclose or suggest the above-noted features, Egendorf would have to disclose that the packet links the categories with identifiers identifying information contained in the information source. However, Egendorf does not disclose or suggest such features. Therefore, Egendorf does not disclose or suggest the above-noted features of the claims.

Moreover, Egendorf does not disclose or suggest selecting an access target database by searching linkage information among the documents stored in the plural databases or the document sets as one or more documents as related documents, based on the selected document set identifier, as recited in independent claim 9, and similarly recited in independent claim 14.

As discussed above, for Egendorf to disclose or suggest the above-noted features, Egendorf would have to disclose that the packet links the categories with identifiers identifying information contained in the information source. However, Egendorf does not disclose or suggest such features. Therefore, Egendorf does not disclose or suggest the above-noted features of the claims.

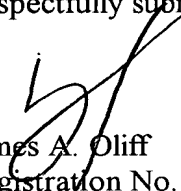
Accordingly, independent claims 1, 8, 9, 13 and 14 define patentable subject matter. Claims 2-7 and 10-12 depend from the respective independent claims, and therefore also define patentable subject matter as well as for the other features they recite. Accordingly, withdrawal of the rejection under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) is respectfully requested.

II. Conclusion

In view of the foregoing, it is respectfully submitted that this application is in condition for allowance. Favorable reconsideration and prompt allowance of claims 1-14 are earnestly solicited.

Should the Examiner believe that anything further would be desirable in order to place this application in even better condition for allowance, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned at the telephone number set forth below.

Respectfully submitted,



James A. Oliff
Registration No. 27,075

Yong S. Choi
Registration No. 43,324

JAO:YSC/tlp

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OLIFF & BERRIDGE, PLC
P.O. Box 19928
Alexandria, Virginia 22320
Telephone: (703) 836-6400

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